

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants have amended the claims and request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Aoki et al.

According to the invention, data synchronization detection is performed using a discriminated bit string output of code-modulated reproduced data. The occurrence of a specified bit pattern in every bit phase of every period of bits in a bit string of the discriminated bit string is detected and counted. Original codeword boundaries of the discriminated bit string output are discriminated based on the number of occurrences of the specified bit pattern. See Fig. 4 and the description thereof in the present specification, for example. According to the present invention, there is no need to employ a data synchronization signal as conventionally employed and consequently improvement in the format efficiency is realized.

As amended, claims 1-5 and 7-10 are not anticipated by Aoki, which is relied upon for disclosing data synchronization detection. In particular, Aoki does not describe the method of detecting data synchronization or method of recording information claimed by Applicants in claims 1-5 and 7-10. Accordingly, the reference does not anticipate the pending claims of the present application and the rejection should be withdrawn.

#### **Objections to Claims**

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the claim objection noted in the Office Action.

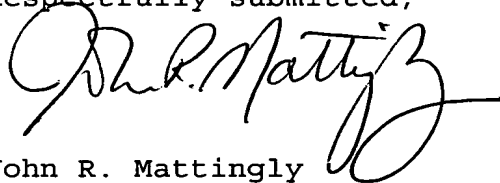
#### **Request for Continued Examination**

Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to ensure entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,  
Applicants contend that the above-identified application is  
now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration  
and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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